



# *The* California State Senate Celebrates our State Parks

**PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S SPECIAL PLACES AND HISTORY FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE**

**A CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BOOK**

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# CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

**Senator Fran Pavley**

**27TH DISTRICT**



COMMITTEES  
Natural Resources & Water  
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Energy, Utilities & Communications  
Environmental Quality  
Governance & Finance  
Legislative Ethics

Dear Friend of State Parks:

Did you know that 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of California State Parks? In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant, which set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias for preservation and public enjoyment. Yosemite became California's first state park; it later became a national park. By the 1880s, people realized that parts of California's unique redwood forests also needed to be preserved. Heated political battles brought compromise that resulted in legislation signed into law in 1901 by Governor Henry T. Gage. The bill authorized state funding for the purchase of redwood property in Santa Cruz County. The following year, the purchase of the first 2,500 acres of land in Big Basin was approved. Today, Big Basin Redwoods is California's oldest state park.

Since then, the California Legislature, California State Parks, and countless generations of Californians have worked to preserve some of California's most valuable lands. The passage of important state park bills and park bond acts helped create a comprehensive plan for preserving California's recreational, natural and cultural treasures. Their actions have put the Golden State in the forefront of the preservation movement.

Today, students and families from all over the world have access to 280 separate state parks on 1.5 million acres of land, and access to more than 280 miles of coastline and 625 miles of lake and river frontage. There are more than 15,000 campsites and 3,000 miles of trails throughout the state for visitors to explore. In addition to the enjoyment experienced by millions of visitors annually, California's state parks have helped create more than 50,000 jobs and generate millions of dollars in state and local tax revenue.

For the past 150 years, the California Legislature has worked with the people of California to preserve some of the state's most valuable lands for future generations; those future generations include you. I hope you find the information and activities in this booklet educational and fun. More importantly, I hope it gets you outside and enjoying our state parks!



# **Celebrating 150 Years of California's State Parks**

From sandy beaches and snowy mountains to sun-baked deserts and majestic forests, California has an outdoor experience to suit every taste. The state also has a rich cultural heritage that is preserved at a variety of historical sites. This activity book celebrates the 150th anniversary of California State Parks, and the preservation of California's natural wonders and history for residents, visitors, and future generations.





## Big Basin Redwoods State Park

north of Santa Cruz

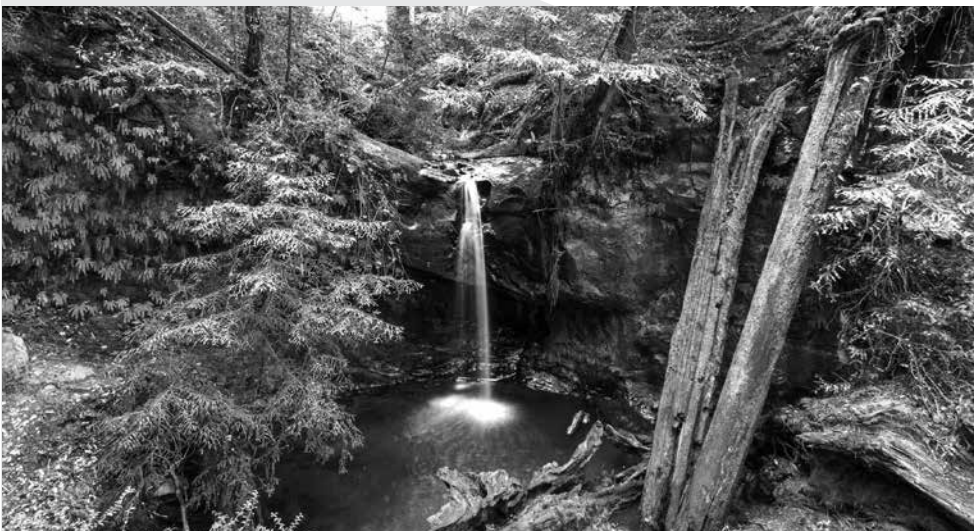
Established in 1902, Big Basin's original 3,800 acres have been increased over the years to over 18,000 acres today. More than half of the park is comprised of old-growth redwood and recovering redwood forest. It is home to the largest continuous stand of ancient Coast Redwoods south of San Francisco. Some of these trees are as tall as 300 feet and up to 2,000 years old. It is a popular site for camping and hiking, with over 81 miles of trails, and also includes waterfalls and a wide range of animal and plant habitats.



## The First State Park: Yosemite

in the Sierra Nevada, east of Modesto

In 1864 President Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant, giving the land to the State of California, making Yosemite California's first state park. Twenty-six years later, in 1890, John Muir's efforts came to fruition when the park was expanded to include the surrounding mountains. At this point, Congress created Yosemite National Park, currently managed by the National Park Service. Now almost 750,000 acres in size and with over 3.5 million visitors per year, Yosemite's waterfalls, meadows, and stunning mountain vistas remain some of the most popular – and scenic – in the world.





## Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park

on the west shore of Lake Tahoe

Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park is one of many state parks around Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America. Its 2,500 acres of forested mountains rise from the shore of the lake, and include wildflower-filled meadows, morains, creeks and trails. It is the only state park in the Sierra Nevada that operates recreational facilities throughout the winter; the park's 11 miles of partially-groomed ski and snowshoe trails have been popular since they were the site of Olympic events in 1960.



## California State Railroad Museum

Sacramento

The California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento is a tribute to the nation's first transcontinental railroad, which was completed in 1869 and linked California to the rest of the United States. The railroad was built with the labor of thousands of immigrants from China, Ireland and other nations.



## McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

near Burney; East of Redding

Established in the 1920s, McArthur-Burney is the second-oldest state park. The park itself includes over 900 acres of woodland, streams, and lake shoreline; camping, fishing, hiking, boating and horseback riding are all popular activities. The falls, at the entrance to the park, are one of the few waterfalls in the state that flow year-round.

# Fun Facts About California State Parks



## Smallest

At only .11 acre, **Watts Towers of Simon Rodia State Historic Park** in Los Angeles is taller than it is wide! The park has 17 sculptures, including two towers nearly 100 feet tall built by Italian immigrant Simon Rodia. He spent over 30 years building this tribute to his new home country using pipes, rods and discarded materials that he found.



## Largest

At 600,000 acres, **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** covers a massive area of desert east of San Diego. The park is home to animals like roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer, bighorn sheep, iguanas, chuckwallas and the red diamond rattlesnake. After a rainy winter, this park is a great place to see wildflowers.



## Most Visited in Southern California

Every year more than 1.4 million people visit **Crystal Cove State Park**, one of Orange County's largest remaining examples of open space and natural seashore. This park has 2,400 acres of backcountry hillsides and canyons and 3.2 miles of beach, including tide-pools with purple shore crabs, sea hares and sea anemones. There are also 46 historically preserved cottages from the 1930s and '40s.



## Most Visited in Northern California

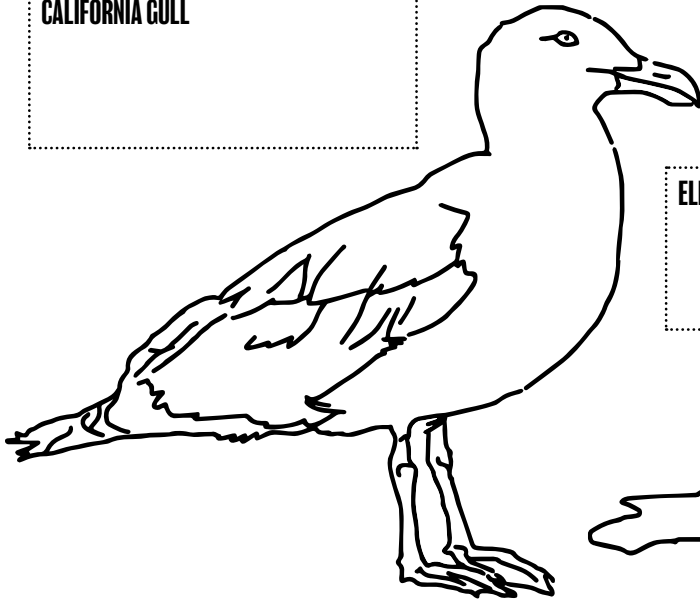
More than 600 miles north of Crystal Cove, **Mendocino Headlands State Park** is a great example of the rugged coastline that defines most of Northern California. About 1.3 million people visit this park each year. Miles of trails wind along the cliffs, and on clear winter days visitors can watch the migration of grey whales.



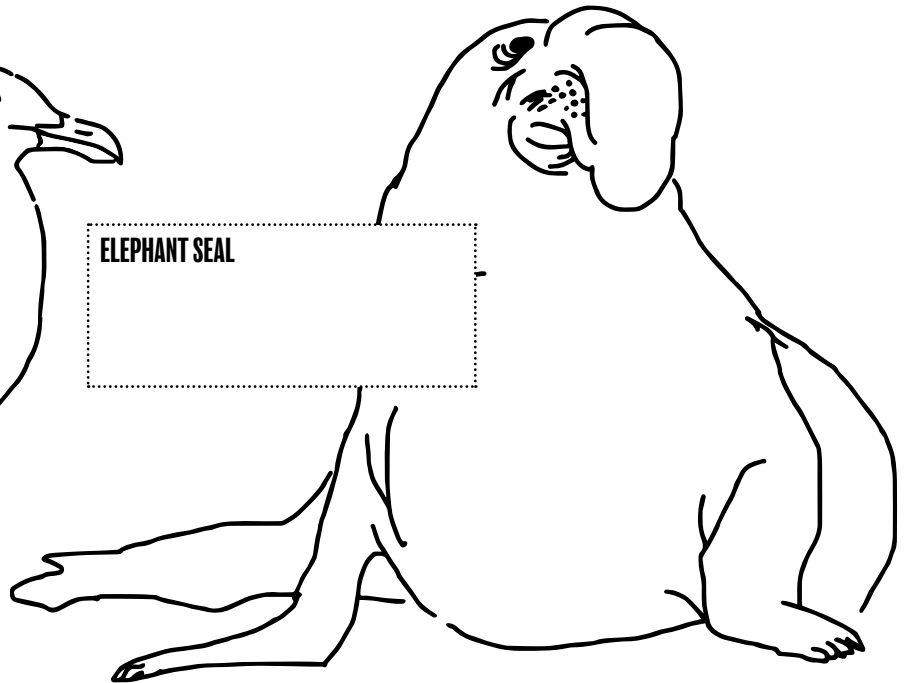
# Match the Animal to its Habitat

California is home to 770 native wildlife species. Many of them can be found in state parks. Which of the parks on the map opposite does each of these animals live in? *Write your answers in the white boxes & color!*

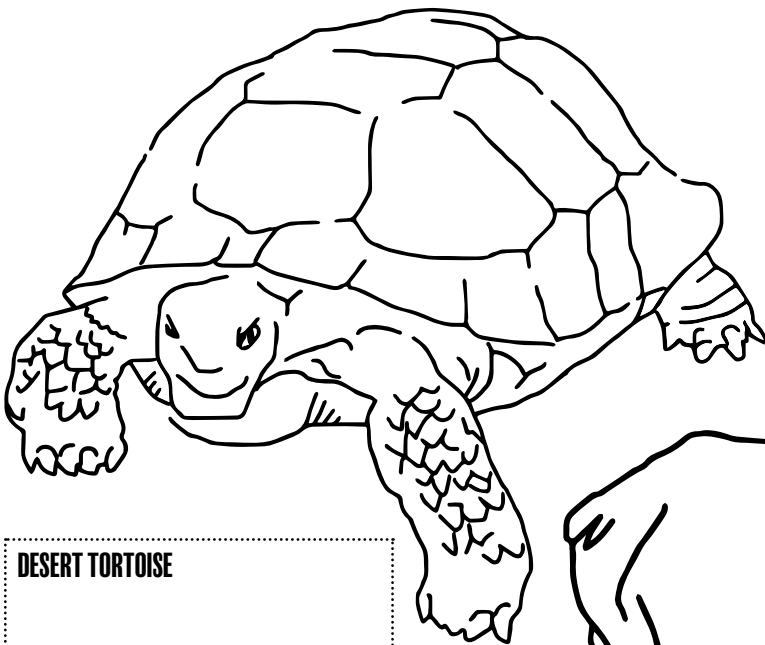
CALIFORNIA GULL



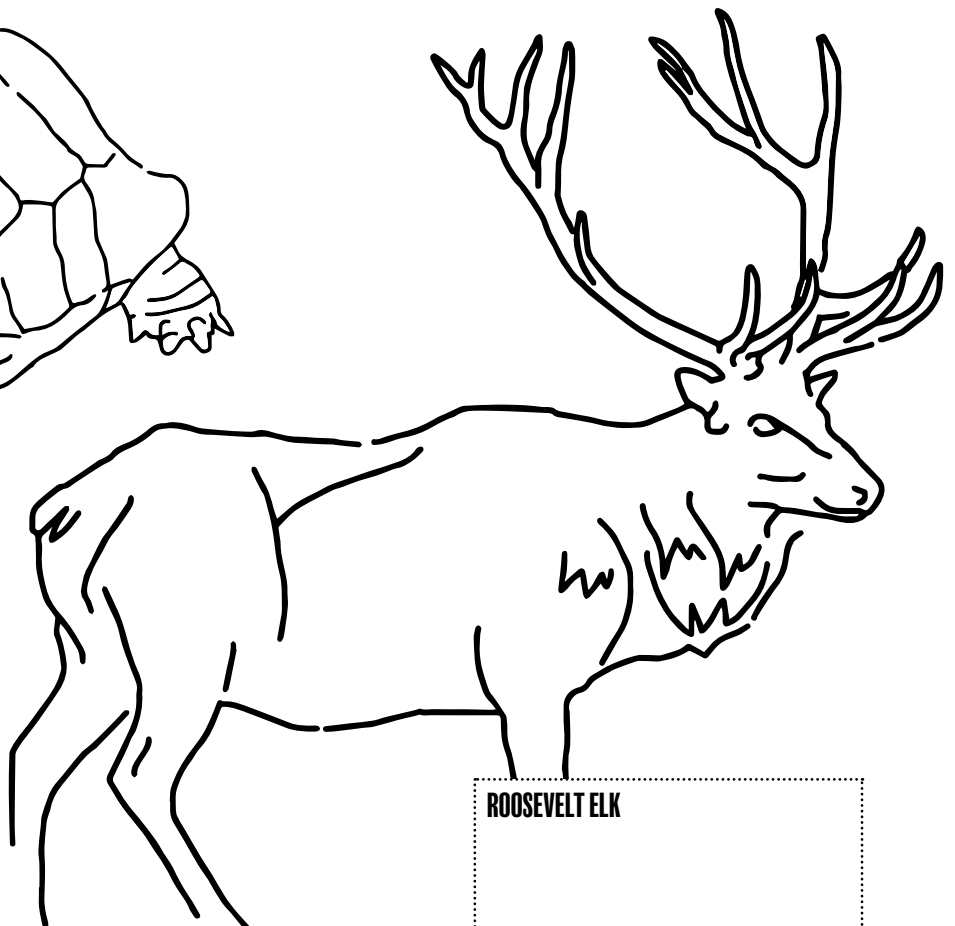
ELEPHANT SEAL



DESERT TORTOISE



ROOSEVELT ELK





# Other Wildlife in California State Parks

Prairie Creek Redwoods



## California State Parks are home to a rich variety of wildlife.

Species include mammals like the mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, coyote, gray fox, western grey and California ground squirrels, black-tailed jack-rabbit, striped skunk and sea otter. Birds include the California quail, Steller's jay, common raven, killdeer, ring-billed gull, mallard, brown pelican, red-tailed hawk and turkey vulture. There are amphibians and reptiles: the Pacific tree frog, western pond turtle, western fence lizard, common garter snake and western rattlesnake, not to mention many varieties of fish.

A few are shown here – can you name them?



Mono Lake

Año Nuevo



Saddleback Butte



# Historic Preservation

In addition to preserving natural settings, State Parks make many of the state's important historical sites available to visitors.



## Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

This park preserves San Diego as it existed during California's transition from Spanish to Mexican rule in 1822, and to American rule in 1848.



IMAGE OF PÍO PICO COURTESY WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

## Pío Pico State Historic Park

This park preserves the home of Pío Pico, the last governor of California during Mexican rule, who later served on the LA City Council after the transition to American rule.



## Angel Island State Historic Park

From 1910 to 1940, thousands of Chinese and other immigrants were processed at Angel Island. Poems carved by the detained can still be seen inside the island's immigration station.



## Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park

In the southern San Joaquin Valley, former slave-turned-Navy officer Allen Allensworth created the first town in California founded, financed and governed by African-Americans.

# Fill-in-the-Blank *based on facts from previous pages*

1. President \_\_\_\_\_ granted Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove to the state of California in 1864.
2. The oldest park still in the California State Park System is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The trees in Big Basin Redwoods State Park are up to \_\_\_\_\_ years old and \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall.
4. In 1869, the nation's first \_\_\_\_\_ was completed, connecting California with the rest of the United States.
5. California's smallest state park is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer, bighorn sheep and iguanas can all be found in \_\_\_\_\_ State Park.
7. Roosevelt Elk can be found in \_\_\_\_\_ State Park.
8. Before it was part of the United States, California was governed by the countries of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The last governor of California before American rule was \_\_\_\_\_.
10. From 1919 to 1940, thousands of immigrants from \_\_\_\_\_ and other countries were processed at Angel Island.



by the Honorable Fran Pavley, 27th Senate District;

RELATIVE TO COMMENDING THE

## ***California Department of Parks and Recreation***

WHEREAS, The California Department of Parks and Recreation, also known as California State Parks, is celebrating its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and upon this auspicious occasion it is appropriate to call the attention of the public to the extraordinary contributions California State Parks has made to the people of California and beyond; and

WHEREAS, California was instrumental in starting the national and international trend of preserving important lands as public parks, and in 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant to set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and protect the incredible scenery and unique environment in that region; this was California's first state park which, in 1906, became a national park; and

WHEREAS, The rich history of our state can be found in every state park in its system, many of which were established by the tireless dedication and generous financial support of generations of Californians who fought to preserve these lands over the last 150 years, and thousands of employees have worked tirelessly in a continual effort to improve the experiences of visitors at all of these parks; and

WHEREAS, Today, the California state park system is recognized as the nation's premier state park system and contains the largest and most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state agency in the nation; and

WHEREAS, California State Parks protect and preserve an unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally sensitive structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal species, ancient Native American sites, historic structures and artifacts - the best of California's natural and cultural history; and

WHEREAS, The California state parks system includes 280 separate park units on 1.5 million acres, and the system annually enjoys 70 million visitors, who help create more than 50,000 jobs in private businesses in communities located near parks and generate nearly \$300 million in state tax revenues and \$145 million in local tax revenues generated annually; and

WHEREAS, California State Parks provide the public with access to more than 280 miles of coastline, about one-third of the State's total, and 625 miles of lake and river frontage, where visitors can enjoy more than 15,000 campsites and 3,000 miles of varied trails that traverse California's stunning array of landscape provinces; and

WHEREAS, For 150 years the California Department of Parks and Recreation has helped to preserve the State's extraordinary biological diversity and protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and the Department's efforts are indeed deserving of acknowledgement and praise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY, That the California Department of Parks and Recreation be commended on the celebration of its sesquicentennial and on the vital role it has played in improving the quality of life of the people of the State of California.

Member Resolution No. 296  
Dated this 14th day of March, 2014.

*Fran Pavley*

Honorable Fran Pavley  
27th Senate District

